

Semi-annual summary of 2002 age-structure samples received at Panama City

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The Panama City Laboratory receives fish age structure samples (otoliths and spines) from several sampling agencies throughout the year. Those samples are recorded in a log and archived for future age-determination processing. The total number of ageing structures received from January 1st through August 6th, 2002 by the Panama City Laboratory was 13,808. This semi-annual total represents 41% (3,989) more otoliths compared to the semi-annual total of 2001. However, the 2001 semi-annual totals only included samples received through July 1st, one month less than the 2002 semi-annual total.

The total number of otoliths represents 45 species collected in 2002 compared to only 32 species received by mid-year in 2001. Another significant difference between semi-annual totals has been an increase in red snapper otoliths 2,572 (72%) received to date compared to the 2001 semi-annual total. Despite this increase in total otoliths, the ratio of commercial to recreational samples of red snapper has remained relatively consistent with the majority of samples representing the commercial fishery (91% commercial, 6% recreational in 2002 and 90%

commercial, 7% recreational in 2001). In addition, 1,254 (~ 40%) more grouper samples have been collected thus far in 2002. Recreationally caught grouper samples increased from 3% of all grouper samples received in 2001 to 8% in 2002 while the commercial samples did not significantly change (94% in 2001 to 90% in 2002).

The amberjack sampling issue was addressed with an increase from 0 otoliths in 2001 to 20 otoliths in 2002. Slightly fewer (304) king and Spanish mackerel otoliths have been received this year compared to 2001. However, many samples collected by the North Carolina Division of Marine Fisheries and Will Patterson at the University of South Alabama have not yet been received.

Table 1. All aging structures collected in 2002 by sampling program from Jan 1-August 6.

Species	TIP	HB	MRFSS	MSLAB	PCLAB	Other	Total
Snappers							
Red *	5,866	32		153	68	23	6,142
Vermilion *	740	8		45	173	19	985
Yellowtail *	198			1	13	1	213
Gray *	145		25		30	12	212
Mutton *	49					1	50
Lane *	98				28	4	130
Queen	2						2
Silky *	31						31
Blackfin *	16						16
Cubera	1						1
Dog*	4						4
Cardinal Snapper *	3						3
Wenchman Snapper *	1						1
Groupers							
Gag *	1,246		56	1	18	37	1,358
Red *	1,251		14	15	192	196	1,668
Scamp *	820				39	51	910
Warsaw *	31				3	1	35
Snowy *	64						64
Yellowedge	162			12			174
Yellowfin	1						1
Yellowmouth*	8						8
Black *	35				1		36
Red Hind *	7						7
Rock hind *	14				1		15
Speckled Hind *	144			1	3	1	149
Graysby *	5						5
Misty *	1						1
Mackerels							
King Mackerel	618	3			245		866
Spanish Mackerel *	159				230		389
Porgies							
Little Head Porgy				6			6
Red Porgy	34			24	20		78
Jolthead Porgy *	1						1
Knob Head Porgy *				11			11
Other:							
Amberjack*	2		4	1	13		20
Blueline (Grey) Tile	1						1
Golden Tile *	87			1			88
Gray Trigger	64			21	12		97
Margate Grunt*	11						11
Wahoo *	3						3
Black Sea Bass *					1		1
Goldface Tilefish *				1			1
Oilfish *	1						1
Queen Triggerfish *	4				1		5
White Grunt *				4			4
White Trout *	4						4
Totals	11,932	43	99	297	1,091	346	13,808
Percents	86.4	0.3	0.7	2.2	7.9	2.5	

* Indicates the species whose 2002 semi-annual total exceeds its 2001semi-annual sample size.

Key to Sources:

TIP= Trip Interview Program

HB= Beaufort Head Boat Survey

MRFSS= Marine Recreational Fisheries Statistical Survey

MSLAB= Pascagoula, Mississippi- National Marine Fisheries Service Laboratory

PCLAB= Panama City, Florida- National Marine Fisheries Service Laboratory

Other= Florida State University and cooperative effort through E. Schmidt (commerical captain)

Table 2. All aging structures collected in 2002 by fishing mode and gear from Jan 1-August 6.

Species	CM HL	CM LL	CM GN	CM CN	CM SP	CM TR	CP	HB	PR	SS HL	SS TR	SS LL	SS GN	SS SP	Total
Snappers															
Red	5,166	428			2		290	49		54	99	54			6,142
Vermilion	767	1					100	58		14	45				985
Yellowtail	119						47		46		1				213
Gray	41	54				1	91	10	10		5				212
Mutton	2	48													50
Lane	57	20					35	12	6						130
Queen	1	1													2
Silky	2	29													31
Blackfin		16													16
Cubera		1													1
Dog Snapper		4													4
Cardinal		3													3
Wenchman Snapper		1													1
Grouper															
Gag	573	685					74	4		9	9	1		3	1,358
Red	352	1,073			1	1	175	43		8	14	1			1,668
Scamp	173	650					27	9	7		16	21		7	910
Warsaw	9	22					3			1					35
Snowy	33	31													64
Yellowedge	26	136										12			174
Yellowfin		1													1
Yellowmouth	4	3					1								8
Black	2	31					3								36
Red Hind	3	2					2								7
Rock hind	7	6					2								15
Speckled hind	9	136					3				1				149
Graysby	4							1							5
Misty		1													1
Mackerels															
King Mackerel	304	19	108	48			356	11	20						866
Spanish Mackerel	37			120			181	1	1	24			25		389
Porgies															
Little Head Porgy											6				6
Red Porgy	25	9					2	1		17	23	1			78
Jolthead Porgy		1													1
Knob Head Porgy											11				11
Other:															
Amberjack							15			4		1			20
Blueline (Grey) Tile	1														1
Golden Tile	24	63									1				88
Gray Trigger	24	14	3				17	2		16	21				97
Margate Grunt		11													11
Wahoo							3								3
Black Sea Bass											1				1
Goldface Tilefish											1				1
Oilfish		1													1
Queen Triggerfish		4					1								5
White Grunt											4				4
White Trout	4														4
Totals	7,769	3,505	111	168	3	2	1,428	201	90	147	258	91	25	10	13,808
Percents	56.3	25.4	0.8	1.2	0.0	0.0	10.3	1.5	0.7	1.1	1.9	0.7	0.2	0.1	

Key to Fishing Modes and Gear types:

CM HL = Commercial Hand Line

CM LL = Commercial Long Line

CM GN = Commercial Gill Net

CM CN= Commercial Cast Net

CM SP= Commercial Spear

CM TR= Commercial Trap

CP = Charter Party hand line

HB = Head Boat hand line

PR = Private hand line

SS HL = Scientific Survey Hand Line

SS TR = Scientific Survey Trap

SS GN = Scientific Survey Gill Net

Table 3. All ageing structures collected in 2002 by state from Jan 1- August 6.

Species	FL	AL	MS	LA	TX	Total
Snappers						
Red	2,764	115	394	2,608	261	6,142
Vermilion	851	4	55	75		985
Yellowtail	213					213
Gray	206			6		212
Mutton	50					50
Lane	120			10		130
Queen	2					2
Silky	31					31
Blackfin	16					16
Cubera	1					1
Dog	4					4
Cardinal Snapper	3					3
Wenchman Snapper	1					1
Groupers						
Gag	1,347	1	5	5		1,358
Red	1,665	2	1			1,668
Scamp	854	20	17	19		910
Warsaw	29		1	5		35
Snowy	58		6			64
Yellowedge	143		12	19		174
Yellowfin	1					1
Yellowmouth	8					8
Black	36					36
Red Hind	7					7
Rock hind	15					15
Speckled hind	149					149
Graysby	5					5
Misty	1					1
Mackerels						
King Mackerel	863				3	866
Spanish Mackerel	389					389
Porgies						
Little Head Porgy	6					6
Red Porgy	70	1		7		78
Jolthead Porgy	1					1
Knob Head Porgy	11					11
Other:						
Amberjack	19	1				20
Blue line (Grey) Tile	1					1
Golden Tile	88					88
Gray Trigger	91			5	1	97
Margate Grunt	11					11
Wahoo	3					3
Black Sea Bass	1					1
Goldface Tilefish	1					1
Oilfish	1					1
Queen Triggerfish	5					5
White Grunt	4					4
White Trout				4		4
Totals	10,145	144	491	2,763	265	13,808
Percents	73.5	1.0	3.6	20.0	1.9	